March Comes in Like a Lion

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MENU · MONJA JIROU

Chapter 30

Moonlight

Don't touch me.

But don't leave me–

Kyoko was a girl who was like a cracked glass.

No matter how much water you poured into her, she would never be filled.

She has a family, she's blessed with good looks, she's got the support of those around her, and still she's...

always riddled with despair like a starved beast...

And–

that crack in the glass

was put there by none other than...

I'M LEAVING HOME.

I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.

YOU CAN'T. THAT MAN

HAS A WIFE, DOESN'T HE?

HASN'T HE?!

SHE'S BEEN HOSPITALISED FOREVER, SO HE'S GOT TO BE LONELY.

Father

and me.

I HAVEN'T FORGOT-TEN.

HOW HE LABELLED HIS DAUGHTER A FAILURE IN LIFE WHEN SHE WAS JUST IN HER 2ND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I CAN'T ALLOW WHAT HE DID EITHER.

SO WHAT?

DAD WON'T ALLOW IT.

QUIT LYING!!

IT'S TRUE.

SHOGI ISN'T EVERY-THING.

"THERE'S LIFE OUT-SIDE OF SHOGI"...

SAYING THINGS HE DOESN'T MEAN, LIKE

BOTH YOU AND DAD

DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN YOUR HEADS BESIDES SHOGI.

.....

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IT.

OF THE TWO OF YOU FEELING SORRY FOR ME,

TREATING ME LIKE I NEED TO BE HANDLED DELICATELY...

IT'S INFUR-IATING.

JUST HOW LONG DO I

NEED TO FEEL MISERABLE LIKE THIS?!

FATHER DOESN'T THINK

THAT YOU ARE UN-IMPORTANT. RIGHT, ANE-SAN?

NO MATTER WHERE I GO, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE WHO WILL MISS ME.

BUT YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT, NEE-SAN.

I'M LEAVING.

It's the first day of the third match of the finals for the tournament to determine who will be the challenger for the title of Shishi Ou...

10 AM.

A match is starting.

I wonder

what kind of fight it's turning out to be...

facing off against each other.

Right now in a special room set up just for the match, those two are quietly

When I played Shimada-san, I was overcome by a strange sensation.

As if I had set foot into a sea of trees,

It was like being constricted by something that made absolutely no noise...

I felt as though I was getting tangled in an overwhelming "something".

TWO HOURS IN, AND THE MATCH LOOKS LIKE THIS.

IT'S INCRED-IBLE...

CHECK THIS OUT.

OOH, KIRI-YAMA.

SEN-SEI, I HAVE THREE MONTHS' WORTH OF ABSENCE NOTES...

I wonder what kind of game he's playing against Gotou.

THIS... IS...

Just by looking at how many moves had been played by that point

the dull sound of heavy bones colliding with each other.

※ P-//
※ S-//
※ P-3d
※ S-4f
※ P-9d
※ P-9f
※ P-8f
※ S-5e

it felt like I could hear

I WAS WONDERING HOW THOSE TWO, WHO BOTH HAVE SOLEMNESS AS THEIR SELLING POINT,

WOULD PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER...

BUT IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE POUNDING EACH OTHER.

WELL, THEY STILL ARE.

.....

WANNA GO?

HUH?

WHERE?

TO THE SHOGI HALL.

BUT—

IT'S NOT A TITLE MATCH, SO THIS BLOG UPDATES AT ODD INTERVALS.

IT'D BE A BETTER LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO GO THERE AND WATCH IT IN PERSON.

BUT... I'VE GOT SO MANY ABSEN-CES...

IT'LL BE FINE, JUST GO!!

OWW...

SMACK

KIN DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI

He...

He's just barely— in the clear— right?

He's got enough, right?

I couldn't have done some thing to disgrace myself as a teacher right?

Eep!

YO, KIRIY-AMA.

KIRIY-AMA...

.....

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANIJA DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS EITHER...

IS HE JUST GONNA THROW HIS BISHOP AWAY HERE?!

HUH?!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM SHIMADA-SAN

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!

□ G-4C?!

AH,

HE MOVED

had seeped all the way into our room.

I felt as though the presence of those two people

From the room past the dark hallways, the one reserved for special matches,

What?

Something is... wrong, isn't it?

How did their moves lead them into this?

Or all of those things?

The weight of each of their exchanges?

The depth of their accumulated experience?

Is it because of how long they've been playing?

a battle between two humans

that trust themselves.

The first game of the Shushi Ou Championship Finals Tournament's third round

The match ended at 9 PM

After 153 moves Shimada 8th dan resigned

began with a win for Gotou 9th dan

THIS PLACE NEVER CHANGES DOES IT?

IT'S SUCH A DEPRESSING BUILDING...

RE!

棋会

ANE-SAN...

I'VE ALWAYS HATED IT...

SAME WITH THIS DARK STREET

AND THAT GLOOMY SHRINE.

...

WELL

WHY ARE YOU HERE, KYOKO?

将棋会館

YO.

WELL, WELL, THE STALKERS ARE ALL TOGETHER

WHAT HAPPENED? I GUESS SHIMADA WAS JUST THAT GOOD, HUH?

AND YOU, YOU WERE RARING TO GO UP AGAINST ME, WEREN'T YOU?

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE A-CLASS.

I didn't want to leave.

HEY,

ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING?

HEY...

WAIT.

But we couldn't be together anymore.

ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM ME?

I couldn't protect

I thought that unless I could stand on my own two feet,

I wanted to grow up fast.

the people that were important to me.

AAAAAAH.

DAMN IT, I LOST.

Because I got a move behind on that Bishop Exchange.

WHEN-EVER I TRIED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE,

HE WOULD FIRE BACK IMMEDIATELY.

WITH SUCH GLEE!!

HE REALLY IS STRONG,

THAT OLD MAN.

※ And he's got such a scary face!!

AND ON TOP OF BEING STRONG, HE'S SO IMMATURE!!

.....

BUT—

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'LL LOSE NEXT TIME.

Yeah,

of course,

Anija!

Chapter 30 end